

Keeping Members' Interest

Rosemary Smith

Some years ago, in corresponding with Jack Brandt in Canada, I put the question to him, "*What is it that maintains the interest of overseas members in the GB Perfin Society?* " This was at the time when it was agreed at the London meeting that I would only include items about 'foreign' perfins if I had not enough GB material to fill the Bulletin.

As Editor of this Society, I receive a copy of the American '*Perfins Bulletin*' and although I can see that the contents have much value to collectors of USA perfins, there was limited interest to myself as a collector of GB perfins. Again as Editor, I was asking myself if there was anything I could do to increase the interest of overseas members without 'foreign' perfins becoming a fixture to my content.

Here is Jack's answer and perhaps you could add to the subject.

"I think the people who have limited interest (country-wise) will join and stay with societies which give them value. Since I collect all perfins, and other things too, I belong to both GB and US groups. There are however several other groups that are one country only and I do not belong to them.

"I see the Bulletin as the main value to a collector, and next the auction, so if either becomes very restricted members are likely to drop out.

"Some feel catalogues are most important, but I have a large collection and could live without them. I buy most of them but have had several here for some years and not checked my collection against them.

"There are also many people on this side of the Atlantic who collect NO GB perfins because there are so many.

"Is it the goal of a club to grow; to fill a specific slot; can it live with a certain number of members?

"Most societies go out of existence when the 'keen' members become aged."